

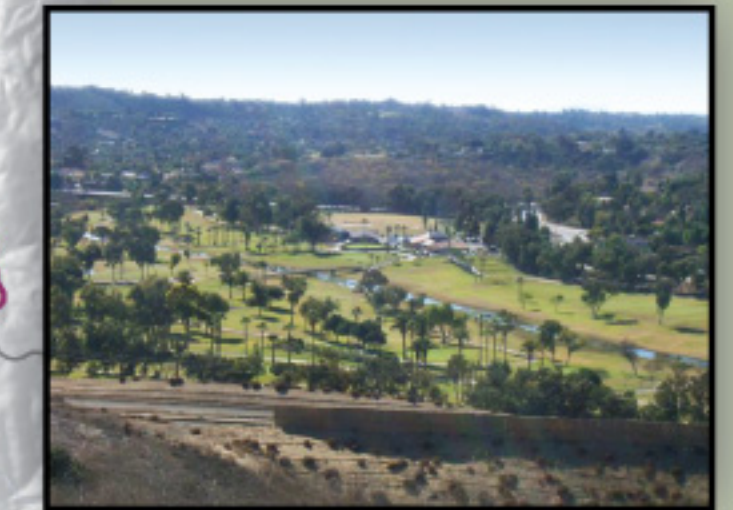
# Laying Claim to the Sweetwater River

## ALTERED ENDINGS

To the west, the Sweetwater River watershed reflects the relationship that modern man has with the river. Fresh water is the critical element for successful habitation in drought-ridden Southern California. The river's water is needed for raising food, for industry, recreation and personal use. Hillsides and terraces of the lower watershed are favorable locations for neighborhoods and cities to grow.



Built in 1888, the Sweetwater Dam was a construction marvel. Of dams built in the U.S., it was the first utilizing the curved concrete face and also the tallest at its completion. Another reservoir, Loveland, was created upstream in 1945.



With the majority of its waters held behind dams, very little surface water runs down the river. However, vast amounts of water can be found below the surface. The valley's golf courses and farms tap into underground water using wells and the local water provider, the Sweetwater Authority, supplements its reservoir supply with wells also.



To protect against flooding, many urban rivers have been lined with concrete dikes. The lower portion of the Sweetwater River is one of these.

For decades, unregulated runoff and wastes made their way down drainages into the river and eventually to the bay and ocean. Fortunately, government agencies and responsible citizens are reclaiming the watershed by using good practices in handling pollutants and other harmful substances.



Thanks to efforts of the community and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the mouth of the river has been restored to an estuary. Here the water of the Sweetwater River, with all it has gathered along its trip through the watershed empties into the San Diego Bay.

- Landuse Category**
- Agriculture
  - Junkyard / Dump / Landfill
  - Industry - Light
  - Industry - Heavy
  - Industry - Extractive
  - Hotel / Motel
  - Residential
  - Commercial and Office
  - Commercial Rec / Golf
  - Undeveloped / Vacant
  - Under Construction
  - Transportation
  - Schools
  - Public Services
  - Parks, Open Spaces & Preserves
  - Sweetwater Watershed Boundary
  - Sweetwater Regional Park
  - Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Boundary
  - Lake
  - Interstate
  - Highway
  - Road
  - Major Stream
  - Minor Stream



Pacific Ocean



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MEXICO

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